

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast September 27th, 2013

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

siege (to attack a place to take control of it)	civilians (people not in the military)
extremists (people with very different political views)	suspects (people believed to be guilty)
diplomat (government worker in another country)	arrested (caught by police)
toll (amount of damage or loss)	off-duty (not currently at work)
	dozens (groups of 12)

security forces - members of a type of police force that protects civilians and provides security

1. My friend is a Canadian _____ working at the Canadian embassy in Japan. When my friend is _____, she spends her time traveling around Japan.
2. Many _____ know very little about weapons and war strategies.
3. _____ often have beliefs that are very different from what the government and society believe.
4. If there is a crime, the police will search for _____. The police hope to _____ people when they have evidence of their guilt.
5. We usually buy eggs in _____.
6. There was a _____ of the treasure ship by pirates.
7. The death _____ from the accident is still unknown, because they are still searching for more people.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. On Tuesday, Kenya's president said that the four-day Nairobi mall siege _____.	a) was terrible. b) was over.
2. More than _____ civilians and _____ members of security forces were killed.	a) 16 / 6 b) 60 / 6
3. Five extremists were killed and 11 _____.	a) suspects were arrested. b) civilians were arrested.
4. Annemarie Desloges, a 29 year old Canadian diplomat, was killed while she was _____.	a) watching a movie at the mall. b) shopping at the mall while off-duty.
5. Vancouver area businessman Naguib Damji _____.	a) also died in the Nairobi mall attack. b) was another American lost in the mall.
6. The death toll _____.	a) may rise. b) may decrease.

Discussion Questions

Do you think shopping malls are dangerous places? How often do you go to shopping malls?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. decision	a) moved from one place to another
	2. convicted	b) the punishment given by the judge to a guilty person
	3. serving	c) to decrease
	4. sentence	d) a choice or judgment someone must make
	5. transferred	e) to say if you are innocent or guilty when a trial begins
	6. court	f) to try
	7. plead	g) to be proven guilty of a crime
	8. attempt	h) to argue the correctness of an action
	9. defend	i) doing time in jail; working towards completing a punishment
	10. lessen	j) a place where a suspect goes in front of a judge, who decides if he/she is guilty and, if guilty, what punishment should be given

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

reserve a/one's decision – taking time to make a decision. A judge may want to review the evidence before making a decision.

detention hearing – a court trial to decide if the accused should be released with conditions

make one's views known – to explain one's opinion out loud or in public

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Omar Khadr is a convicted war criminal.
2. ____ He is now serving an 8 year sentence in an Alberta provincial jail.
3. ____ His lawyer wants him moved to the Edmonton maximum security prison.
4. ____ A detention hearing was held on Monday in Edmonton.
5. ____ Three years ago, Khadr pleaded guilty to war crimes in a U.S. court.
6. ____ Stephen Harper said publicly that Khadr's sentence should be lessened.

Discussion Questions

Do you think it is right to reduce a criminal's jail sentence? When is it a good idea to let a person go free sooner than when the judge originally decided?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the group of related words (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) disappearing	a) grass garden
	2) lawn	b) gone missing
	3) Ward	c) damaged smashed
	4) vandalized	d) region area
	5) candidate	e) changing substituting
	6) replacing	f) money prize
	7) reward	g) applicant person trying to win

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. In which Ward have lawn signs gone missing?
2. How many lawn signs have disappeared?
3. Which candidate has had the problem of lawn signs disappearing?
4. What does the candidate plan to do about the missing signs?
5. How is the candidate trying to encourage people to give information about the missing lawn signs?

Discussion Question

Why is it important for all candidates to be able to advertise their campaign? Do you think that city council elections are important? Why or why not?

Language Focus

Pronunciation of numbers

While numbers are usually one of the first things we learn in another language, the pronunciation of numbers has caused many misunderstandings or comprehension problems.

two [tu:]	twelve [twelv]	twenty ['twenti]
three [θri:]	thirteen ['θɜ:tin]	thirty ['θɜ:ti]
four [fɔ:]	fourteen ['fɔ:tin]	forty ['fɔ:ti]
five [faɪv]	fifteen ['fiftin]	fifty ['fifti]
six [siks]	sixteen ['siksɪn]	sixty ['siksɪ]
seven ['sev(ə)n]	seventeen ['sev(ə)ntin]	seventy ['sev(ə)nti]
eight [eɪt]	eighteen ['eɪtɪn]	eighty ['eɪti]
nine [naɪn]	nineteen ['naɪntɪn]	ninety ['naɪnti]

Many students may have seen this pronunciation chart, but in order to avoid confusion, it is important to focus on where the accent comes in each word and the length of the utterance.

13 <i>thirteen</i>	30 <i>thirty</i>	17 <i>seventeen</i>	70 <i>seventy</i>
14 <i>fourteen</i>	40 <i>forty</i>	18 <i>eighteen</i>	80 <i>eighty</i>
15 <i>fifteen</i>	50 <i>fifty</i>	19 <i>nineteen</i>	90 <i>ninety</i>
16 <i>sixteen</i>	60 <i>sixty</i>		

Notice that when we say the -teens, there is an accent on the second syllable of the word. You should also try to make this word much longer sounding than the number ending in -ty.

thir-t-e-e-n / thirty four-t-e-e-n / forty

Another error students often make is when pronouncing years. When we say the year in English, we usually group the numbers by two, except for centuries. (We also group office numbers and other addresses in the same way.)

1982 is not one thousand nine hundred and eighty two (if it is a date).

We would say [19] [82] *nineteen eighty two*. (If it is an office or apartment it is #82 on the 19th floor.)

1900 <i>nineteen hundred</i>	the 15 th c.	<i>the fifteenth century</i> (1401 – 1500)
1705 <i>seventeen oh five</i>	the 21 st c.	<i>the twenty-first century</i> (2001 – 2100)
1888 <i>eighteen eighty-eight</i>	the 60's	<i>the sixties</i> (1960 – 1969)
2006 <i>two thousand (and) six</i>		

Listen to the news stories again and focus on the pronunciation of the numbers. Try practicing your pronunciation of the -teens and -ty numbers. Practice saying different years.

Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	SEPTEMBER 27 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for September 27 th .	0:00
Story 1	On Tuesday, Kenya's president said that the four-day Nairobi mall siege, in which dozens of civilians were killed, was over. President Uhuru Kenyatta said the dead included more than 60 civilians and six members of the security forces. Five extremists were killed and 11 other suspects were arrested. Two Canadians were among the civilians killed. One of the dead Canadians was Annemarie Desloges, a 29 year old diplomat. She was shopping at the mall while off-duty when it was attacked. The other Canadian, who died in the attack at the shopping centre, was Vancouver area businessman Naguib Damji.	0:08
Story 2	An Edmonton judge has reserved his decision in the Omar Khadr matter. The convicted war criminal is now serving an 8 year sentence at the Edmonton maximum security prison. His lawyer wants him moved to a provincial jail. A detention hearing was held Monday in Edmonton. The 27-year old Khadr was convicted three years ago after pleading guilty to war crimes in a U.S. military court. He was transferred to Canada from Guantanamo Bay last year. The prime minister made his views about Khadr known Monday. Stephen Harper said it is important to defend against attempts to lessen Khadr's punishment.	0:56
Story 3	The common problem of election signs disappearing in Calgary is back again. More than 150 lawn signs from a Ward 9 city council candidate have been removed. Richard Wilkie says other signs were vandalized. He says other candidates have not had the same problems. Wilkie says stealing signs is a criminal matter. He says he'll be replacing the signs. He is also offering a cash reward for information leading to the people responsible.	01:43

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

1. My friend is a Canadian diplomat working at the Canadian embassy in Japan.
When my friend is off-duty, she spends her time traveling around Japan.
2. Many civilians know very little about weapons and war strategies.
3. Extremists often have beliefs that are very different from what the government and society believe.
4. If there is a crime, the police will search for suspects. The police hope to arrest people when they have evidence of their guilt.
5. We usually buy eggs in dozens.
6. There was a siege of the treasure ship by pirates.
7. The death toll from the accident is still unknown, because they are still searching for more people.

Listening

1. On Tuesday Kenya's president said that the four-day Nairobi mall siege _____.	a) was terrible. b) was over.
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4. Annemarie Desloges, a 29 year old Canadian diplomat, was killed when she was _____.	a) watching a movie at the mall. b) shopping at the mall while off-duty.
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News story 2

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
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g	2. convicted	b) the punishment given by the judge to a guilty person
i	3. serving	c) to decrease
b	4. sentence	d) a choice or judgment someone must make
a	5. transferred	e) to say if you are innocent or guilty when a trial begins
j	6. court	f) to try
e	7. plead	g) to be proven guilty of a crime

f	8. attempt	h) to argue the correctness of an action
h	9. defend	i) doing time in jail; working towards completing a punishment
c	10. lessen	j) a place where a suspect goes in front of a judge, who decides if he/she is guilty and, if guilty, what punishment should be given

Listening

1. **T** Omar Khadr is a convicted war criminal.
2. **F** He is now serving an 8 year sentence in an Alberta provincial jail.
3. **F** His lawyer wants him moved to the Edmonton maximum security prison.
4. **T** A detention hearing was held on Monday in Edmonton.
5. **T** Three years ago, Khadr pleaded guilty to war crimes in a U.S. court.
6. **F** Stephen Harper said publicly that Khadr's sentence should be lessened.

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
b.	1) disappearing	a) grass garden
a.	2) lawn	b) gone missing
d.	3) Ward	c) damaged smashed
c.	4) vandalized	d) region area
g	5) candidate	e) changing substituting
e	6) replacing	f) money prize
f	7) reward	g) applicant person trying to win

Listening

1. In which Ward have lawn signs gone missing?
In Ward 9
2. How many lawn signs have disappeared?
More than 150

3. Which candidate has had the problem of lawn signs disappearing?
Richard Wilkie
4. What does the candidate plan to do about the missing signs?
He will replace them.
5. How is the candidate trying to encourage people to give information about the missing lawn signs?
He is offering a cash reward for information.